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AUTHOR	Zweizig, Douglas L.; Hopkins, Dianne McAfee
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ABSTRACT

This book presents the results of an evaluation of Library Power, an initiative of the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund that provided support for school library development in 19 communities. Following an introductory chapter, the chapters are organized around key questions of the evaluation. Chapters 2 through 4 address the implementation of key components of Library Power: improved collections; flexible access to an improved library facility; and a collaborative approach to using library resources in instruction. Chapters 5 through 7 covers some consequences of Library Power programs: how the program interacted with curriculum planning and instructional operation of the school, and how Library Power operated in conjunction with various school reform initiatives. Chapter 8 discusses how professional development was used as a strategy to communicate the intentions of the program, transmit needed skills, and foster the formation of teams in schools with a focus on the use of library materials in instruction. Chapter 9 examines the degree to which key Library Power practices can be seen to have been incorporated into school practice and the likelihood of their continuing after the end of formal grant funding. Finally, Chapter 10 presents reflections on the evaluation process from the perspective of an evaluation officer at the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. Appendices include questionnaires for the library media specialist, principal, and teacher. (MES)

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